

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SY-04 SCCT-01 CU-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W

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R 161452Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1741

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AS YO

SUBJ: WHITLAM VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. YUGOSLAVS GAVE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM PARTICULARLY WARM WELCOME DURING HIS FOUR-DAY VISIT JAN 9-12. AUSTRALIAN SECOND SECRETARY COSTELLO, IN WHAT HE STRESSED WAS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT, JAN 13 TOLD EMBOFF AUSTRALIANS THEMSELVES WERE SURPRISED BY THE WARMTH OF THE OF THE RECEPTION. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN EVALUATED BY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS STATIONED IN BELGRADE AS MORE EXTENSIVE AND MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT DURING BRANT VISIT LAST YEAR.

2. PRIMARY ISSUE DURING VISIT WAS ISSUE THAT WASN'T THERE: TERRORISM. BOTH TITO AND BIJEDIC EXPRESSED APPRECIATION DURING VISIT FOR AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS TO CURB TERRORIST ACTIVITY BY YUGOSLAV EMIGRES IN AUSTRALIA. COSTELLO QUOTED THE COMMENT OF A SUP INSPECTOR DURING THE VISIT THAT ANOTHER TERRORIST INCIDENT INVOLVING EMIGRES FROM AUSTRALIA WOULD BE ACCEPTED AS HAVING HAPPENED IN SPITE OF BEST EFFORT OF THE AUSTRALIANS.

3. SOME SOFTENING OF YUGOSLAV POSITION ON DUAL NATIONAL QUESTION MAY HAVE OCCURRED DURING TALKS. IT WAS COSTELLO'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDERSTANDING THAT CONSULAR ACCESS MAY BE PERMITTED IN LESS

SERIOUS POLITICAL CASES ON BASIS OF ACIT ACCOMMODATION, WITHOUT FORMAL CHANGES IN YUGOSLAV PRO MEMORIA OF LAST SUMMER. SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR ACCESS SHOULD PUT THIS TO TEST IN COMING WEEKS.

4. MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IN FOREIGN POLICY TALKS INVOLVED NONALIGNMENT, WHICH WHITLAM DESCRIBED AT TITO LUNCH JAN 10 AS "A MOVEMENT IN WHICH HUMANITY HAS THE HIGHEST CONFIDENCE, AND FROM WHICH WHAT IT MOST EXPECTS IS THAT THE WORLD WILL BECOME A PLACE OF COOPERATION INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION." YUGOSLAVS AGREED TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT UPCOMING MEETING OF NONALIGNED NATIONS IN COLUMBO, COSTELLO SAID. AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT FOR MANY EFFORTS OF NON-ALIGNED RECEIVED WIDE ATTENTION IN LOCAL PRESS DURING VISIT. WHITLAM HIMSELF DURING JAN 10 PRESS CONFERENCE SAID "AUSTRALIA FINDS POINTS OF CONTACT, AND HAS IDENTICAL OUTLOOK ON PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT, COLONIALISM AND RACISM IN SPITE OF ACT IT IS NOT NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND HAS ITS POLITICAL AND MILITARY ALLIES." TWO POINTS OF CONTACT NOTED BY COSTELLO WERE EFFORTS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF GREAT- POWER RIVALRY INTO INDIAN OCEAN, AND AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATION OF BAUXITE PRODUCERS. AUSTRALIAN REAFFIRMATION OF ANZUS TIES FAILED TO BREAK GENERAL AIR OF AGREEMENT. YUGOSLAVS EXPRESSED "UNDERSTANDING" OF AUSTRALIAN BLOC MEMBERSHIP AND INDICATED THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT SUPPORT FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT COLUMBO. ONE OTHER POINT OF DISAGREEMENT, MID-EAST SITUATION, ALSO DID NOT APPEAR TO AFFECT ATMOSPHERE OF TRIP.

5. AGREEMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED IN NEAR FUTURE ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE, DUAL TAXATION, AND SOCIAL WELFARE, COSTELLO SAID. LAST WILL PROVIDE FOR AUSTRALIAN PENSIONERS RETIRING IN YUGOSLAVIA TO CONTINUE RECEIVING AUSTRALIAN PENSION. DURING VISIT PRESS CONFERENCE WHITLAM ANNOUNCED AUSTRALIAN WOULD NOT SEEK CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH YUGOSLAVIA.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TERRORISTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA00226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750017-0745
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750148/aaaabpqu.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITLAM VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, AS, YO, (WHITLAM, E GOUGH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006